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A METHOD FOR DETERMINING THE GOLUMN CURYS

FROM TESTS OF COLUMNS WITH EQUAL RESTRAINTS

ASSURED SOCIALISM OF SHE SHEET

By Bugene B. Lundquist, Carl A. Rossman, and John C. Houbolt

Langley Henorial Asronautical Laboratory Langley Field, Va.

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MATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTIOS

TECHNICAL NOTE NO. 903

A NETHOD FOR DETERMINING THE COLUMN CURVE
FROM TESTS OF COLUMNS WITH EQUAL RESTRAINTS
AGAINST ROTATION ON THE ENDS

By Eugene E. Lundquist, Carl A. Rossman, and John C. Houbolt

SUIMARY

The results are presented of a theoretical study for the determination of the column curve from tests of column epecimens having ends equally restrained against rotation. The theory of this problem is studied and a curve is shown relating the fixity coefficient c to the critical load, the length of the column, and the magnitude of the elastic restraint. A method of using this curve for the determination of the column curve for columns with pin ends from tests of columns with elastically restrained ends is presented. The results of the method as applied to a series of tests on thin-strip columns of stainless steel are also given.

INTRODUCTION .

It is fairly common practice for engineers to assume that a given fixture or restraining member at the end of a column provides a column fixity coefficient c that is constant for columns of different lengths and eizes of column cross sections. In reality, however, the fixity coefficient depends upon both the dimensions of the column and the restraint offered by the restraining member; therefore, a nore correct procedure, theoretically, would be to assume that a given fixture or restraining member at the end of the column provides, rather than a given fixity coefficient, a restraining stiffness against rotation that is independent of the dimensions of the column. A method for determining the column curve for thin sheet

material that is based upon considerations of the restraining stiffness and that shows promise of successful development involves meunting each end of a small column specimen in special end fixtures of the general type shown in figure 1. The specimen with end fixtures attached is then loaded by axially compressing the assembly until the specimen fails by instability as an ordinary column.

The special end fixtures on the celumn epecimen in figure 1 tend to produce a condition approaching that of completely fixed ends. Actually, the elasticity of the clamping fixtures and of the specimen does not permit completely fixed ends and, as a consequence, the column fixity coefficient o which is 1 for pin ends and 4 for fixed ends, will be slightly less than 4.

The method of analyzing test data to obtain the column curve for any thin sheet material, tested in the manner described, is presented herein. Column curves that have been dtermined in this manner for a series of stain—less-oteel specimens are also presented.

DETERMINATION OF COLUMN CURVE FOR c = 1

The column curve — that is, usually plotted for any material is the curve for pin—ended columns, c = 1. In order to obtain the column curve from tests employing the end fixtures shown in figure 1, the value of the celumn fixity coefficient c must be determined. This coefficient o can be determined by use of the curve of figure 2 provided the length of the column L, the experimental critical buckling load of the column Pcr, and the restraining stiffness of the end fixtures m (assumed to be the same at each end); are known. The ourve shown in figure 2 is the graph of the equation

$$\frac{P_{cr}L}{m} = -\pi \sqrt{c} \tan \left(\frac{\pi}{2} \sqrt{o}\right)$$

which has been determined through consideration of the stability of a column having ends equally restrained against rotation and is a special case of the general solution given by equation (A-13) in the appendix.

After the value of c has been found, the effective value of the slanderness ratio L/ρ for the fixity coefficient c=1 can be determined by use of the following relation:

$$\left(\frac{L}{\rho}\right)_{\text{eff}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{c}} \left(\frac{L}{\rho}\right)_{\text{exp}}$$

where

 $\left(\frac{\mathbf{L}}{\mathbf{P}}\right)_{\text{eff}}$ effective slendernes ratio for c=1

 $\left(\frac{L}{\rho}\right)_{\text{exp}}$ actual slenderness ratio of tested column

and

radius of gyration of column

The column curve for pin ends is obtained by plotting P_{cr}/A against $\left(\frac{T_i}{\rho}\right)_{eff}$ for the specimens tested, where A is the cross-sectional area of the specimen.

EVALUATION OF RESTRAINT B

Before the fixity coefficient o can be evaluated by the procedure given in the foregoing section, the value of the restraint m of each end fixture must be known. In the case of the end fixture of figure 1, the specimen is so narrow compared to the width of the fixture that probably only a part of the fixture is clastically restraining the rotation of the end of the specimen. It is, therefore, likly that the restraint m depends on the width of the specimen and should be evaluated for each different width. The value of m for any group of column specimens of the same width and thickness can be determined from the test data for the longer specimens of the group, because the critical compressive stress for these specimens is low and lies within the elastic range where

the effective modulus E is equal to Young's modulus E. For these longer test specimens, all quantities in the Euler column formula are known except c. Therefore

$$c = \frac{P_{cr}L^2}{\pi^2 E I} \tag{1}$$

The value of $\frac{P_{cr}L}{m}$ corresponding to this value of c may

be found from the graph of figure 2; then m can be computed because Por and L are known. When m has been determined, the evaluation of o for the columns of shorter lengths can be made as described in the preceding section.

In order to retain the degree of accuracy required in computations, the curve of figure 2 should be plotted to an onlarged scale. As an aid in preparing such a curve, a set of coordinates of the curve is given in table 1.

RESULTS OF TESTS OF STAINLESS-STEEL COLUMNS

OF THIN SHEET MATERIAL

The method for determining the column ourve as described in this report has been applied to eight series - designated A, B, C, etc. - of stainless-steel column specimens. The heat treatment and condition of loading for each series is given in table 2. The chemical analysis for each series is as follows:

	Percentage composition										
Chemical	Series										
oloment	A, B, C, and D	E	F	G and H							
Fe	71.925	72.238	27.009	7							
. C .	.08	11	.04								
Mn .	.63	1.63	1.40								
P	.016	024	.014								
'S	.009	.008	.007	Not							
. S1.	.45	.46	43.00	. available							
Ni	8.71	7.35	10.13								
Cr	18.16	18,16	18.00								
Cu	.02	.02	.02								
Ti	1		.38								

The column tests were made of flat strips with the type of fixture shown in figure 1. The specimens were loaded in a standard 100,000-round-capacity hydraulic testing machine. The heads of the testing machine were set parallel and the specimens were centered to produce as nearly an axial load condition as possible. The testing machine was of the two-screw type and the column specimens were so positioned that failure would occur in the plane of the screws of the machine, as the stiffness of the testing machine is greatest in thie plane.

The values of B were obtained from stress-strain tests of column specimens from each series of columns tested. A tensile modulus was used in the analysis of several series because it was not possible to determine the compressive modulus. A summary of the values of E and of restraint values m found for the different series is given in table 2.

Table 3 shows the computations necessary to analyze series A by the method outlined previously in this report; the column curve for series A is shown in figure 3. Graphs of the results of the tests, in which critical stress has been plotted against slenderness ratio for c = 1, are shown in figures 3 to 10.

EFFECT OF ERRORS IN B ON DERIVED COLUMN CURVE

The application of the procedures outlined in this report to the data obtained from the tests of the stain-less-steel columne revealed that the accuracy of the resulting column curve depended on the choice of the value of E used in the evaluation of the restraint m. A study was therefore made to determine the offect that errore in E would have on the final column curve. The results of this study revealed that (see fig. 11):

- l. At any value of $(L/\rho)_{\rm eff}$ the stress given by a derived column curve based upon a value of E emaller then the correct value will be in error on the conservative or low side as compared with the curve derived by using the correct value of E. For a given percentage error in E, a low value of E will give, over the most practical range of $(L/\rho)_{\rm eff}$, a emaller percentage error in column etress than will a correspondingly high value of E.
- 2. The maximum percentage error in stress given by a column curve derived by using an incorrect value of E is greater than the percentage error in E (see fig. 11). It is therefore important that the compression modulue for the material of the column specimens be accurately known if a column curve is derived by the method given in this report.
- 3. If the correct value of E is unknown and a commonly accepted value of E is assumed for use in the computations, the analysis should reveal the presence of any unreasonably large errors in this choice of E. If the value of E is too large, the derived column curve will lie above the Euler curve for this value of E in the range of intermediate column lengthe (see fig. 12). If the value of E used in the evaluation of m from the test data for the longer epecimens of the group is sufficiently less than the correct value of E, the computed value of the fixity coefficient, as given by equation (1), will be greater than 4.

1

Consideration of the feregoing facts indicates that, if the value of E is uncertain but is known to lie within a small range, the lowest value in that range would be the most suitable value to select for use in computing the column curve of the material.

Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory, National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, Langley Field, Va., June 10, 1943.

APPENDIX.

THE STABILITY OF A COLUMN HAVING ELASTICALLY

RESTRAINED ENDS

Timoshenko hae obtained the expressions for the rotations θ_a and θ_b at the ends of a member subjected to compressive forces P and end moments N_a and N_b (shown in fig. 13) by solving the differential equation expressing the equilibrium of the bent member. These expressions, given as equation (25) on page 13 of reference 1, are:

$$\theta_{a} = \frac{R_{a}LG}{3\Xi I} + \frac{R_{b}LF}{6\Xi I} \tag{A-1}$$

$$\theta_{b} = \frac{M_{b}LG}{3EI} + \frac{M_{a}LF}{6EI}$$
 (A-2)

where

$$F = \phi(u) = \frac{3}{u} \left(\frac{1}{\sin 2u} - \frac{1}{2u} \right) \tag{A-3}$$

$$G = \psi(u) = \frac{3}{2u} \left(\frac{1}{2u} - \frac{1}{\tan 2u} \right)$$
 (A-4)

$$u = \frac{kL}{2} \tag{A-5}$$

$$k = \sqrt{\frac{P}{EI}}$$
 (A-6)

In the foregoing equations the symbols have the following meanings:

- θa, θb rotations of the tangents to doflection curve at the left and right onds, respectively, of the member; positive as shown in figure 13
- Ma, Mb applied moments at the left and right ends, respectively, of the member as shown in figure 13
- L length of the member
- E effective modulue of elasticity
- I moment of inertia of the column cross section
- P axial load acting on the member

If the moments Ma and Mb in equations (A-1) and (A-2) arise as a result of rotation of the restraining elements that oppose the deflection of the member when it bends and if, in addition, the restraining momento are proportional to the rotations of the restraining elements, respectively, the end moments acting on the member can be written

$$H_{a} = -m_{a} \theta_{a} \qquad (A-7)$$

$$N_b = -m_b \theta_b$$
 (A-8)

where ma and my are the momente necessary to rotate the restraining elements at the left and right ends of the column, respectively, through one radian.

Substitution of these values of Ma and Mb in equations (A-1) and (A-2) gives

$$\left(1 + \frac{G\epsilon_a}{3}\right)\theta_a + \left(\frac{F\epsilon_b}{6}\right)\theta_b = 0 \qquad (A-9)$$

$$\left(\frac{\mathbf{F}\epsilon_{\mathbf{a}}}{6}\right)\theta_{\mathbf{a}} + \left(1 + \frac{\mathbf{G}\epsilon_{\mathbf{b}}}{3}\right)\theta_{\mathbf{b}} = 0 \tag{A-10}$$

where

$$\epsilon_{\mathbf{a}} = \frac{\mathbf{m}_{\mathbf{a}} \mathbf{L}}{\mathbf{E} \mathbf{I}} \tag{A-11}$$

$$\epsilon_{\rm b} = \frac{m_{\rm b}L}{\pi_{\rm I}} \tag{A-12}$$

The quantities ϵ_a and ϵ_b are the "restraint coefficient" at the left and right ends, respectively, of the compression member.

Equations (A-9) and (A-10) are linear simultaneous equations which can be satisfied by taking $\theta_a = \theta_b = 0$. The deflection at each point on the member is then zero and the straight form of equilibrium of the member is obtained. The buckled form of equilibrium of the member becomes possible only if equations (A-9) and (A-10) yield for θ_a and θ_b solutions different from zero, which requires that the determinant of these equations become zero, or

$$\left(1 + \frac{G}{3} \epsilon_{a}\right)\left(1 + \frac{G}{3} \epsilon_{b}\right) - \left(\frac{F}{6} \epsilon_{a}\right)\left(\frac{F}{6} \epsilon_{b}\right) = 0$$
 (A-13)

The value of P that eatisfies this equation for neutral stability of a member elastically restrained against rotation at each end is the critical load $P_{\rm cr}$.

When the restraints at the ends of the column are equal, $m_a=m_b=m$ and $\epsilon_a=\epsilon_b=\epsilon$. For this case equation (A-13) reduces to

$$\left(1+\frac{G}{3}\epsilon\right)^{2}=\left(\frac{F}{6}\epsilon\right)^{2}$$
(A-14)

This equation cannot be solved directly for Pcr. the critical value of the load P, because P occurs in

(9 20 4)

transcendental expressions F and G. If P is regarded as known, however, equation (A-14) yields as solutions for ε two values

$$\epsilon = \frac{1}{\frac{F}{6} - \frac{G}{3}} \tag{A-15}$$

$$\epsilon = \frac{-1}{\frac{F}{6} + \frac{G}{3}} \tag{A-16}$$

which describe two mathematically possible buckling configurations. The buckled shape that corresponds to each of these equations may be obtained by substituting the value of ϵ in either equation (A-9) or equation (A-10). From this substitution of ϵ as given by equation (A-15) it is found that $\theta_a = -\theta_b$, which by the aid of equations (A-7) and (A-8) shows that $H_a = -H_b$. This type of buckling is represented by the bent member of figure 14(a). Similarly, by substitution of the value of ϵ as given by equation (A-16) in either equation (A-9) or (A-10), it is found that $\theta_a = \theta_b$, which again by the aid of equations (A-7) and (A-8) shows that $H_a = H_b$. This type of buckling is illustrated by figure 14(b).

The type of buckling shown in figure 14(b) will occur at a lower lead than the type shown in figure 14(a) because of the longer wave length involved. A column with equal elastic restraints resisting rotation at its ends will therefore adopt the buckling configuration shown in figure 14(b) at a load P = Por that satisfies equation (A-16).

When the values of F and G as given by equations (A-5) and (A-4) are substituted in equation (A-16), the following relation is obtained:

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$$\epsilon = \frac{-2u}{\tan \frac{2u}{2}} \tag{A-17}$$

From squestions (A-5) and (A-6)

$$2 u = \sqrt{\frac{P}{EI}} L \qquad (A-18)$$

By use of the relationship expressed by the Euler column formula.

$$P_{cr} = \frac{c\pi^2 \overline{E}I}{L^2} \qquad (A-19.)$$

equation (A-18) becomes

$$2u = \pi \sqrt{2} \qquad (A-20)$$

Equation (A-17) may therefore be expressed as

$$tan \frac{\pi\sqrt{c}}{2}$$
 (A-21)

This expression for the elastic restraint at the ends of a column in terms of the fixity coefficient is shown graphically in figure 15 in order to show that the variation in the fixity coefficient is small when the restraint is large.

If the equations (A-11) or (A-12), which define ϵ , are solved for EI/L when $m_a=m_b=m$ and this value is substituted in equation (A-19), the Euler column formula can be written

$$P_{cr} = \frac{c\pi^2}{\tau} \frac{m}{\epsilon} \qquad (A-22)$$

Substitution of the value of ϵ as given by equation (A-21) in equation (A-22) gives

$$P_{cr} = -\frac{m_{H}\sqrt{c} \tan\left(\frac{H}{2}\sqrt{c}\right)}{L}$$

Kultiplication of both sides of this equation by L/m results in the equation

$$\frac{P_{cr}L}{m} = -\pi \sqrt{c} \tan \left(\frac{\pi}{2} \sqrt{c}\right) \qquad (A-23)$$

Equation (A-23) relates the fixity coefficient c to the critical load, the length of the column, and the magnitude of the clastic restraint. This equation is represented graphically in figure 2.

REFERENCE

1. Timoshenko, S.: Theory of Elastic Stability. McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., 1936.

TABLE 1. - VALUES OF $\frac{P_{CF}L}{m}$ AND CORRESPONDING VALUES OF c

		10			
С	P _{cr} L m	c	P _{cr} L m	c	P _{cr} L . m
1.00	no	2.68	3.29718	3.64	0.87342
1.10	42.8911	2.72	3.18358	3.66	.82544
1.20	22.7811	2.76	3.07200	3.68	.77740
1.30	16,0036	2.80	2.96222	3.70	72930
1.40	12.5572	2.84	2.85420	3.72	.68120
1.50	10,4425	2.88	2.74758	3.74	.63301
1.60	8.9920	2.92	2.64247	3.76	.58486
1.70	7.9206	2.96	2.53852	3.78	.53658
1.80	7.0853	3.00	2.43581	3.80	.48816
1.84	6.79802	3.04	2.33406	3.81	.46401
1.88	6.53224	3.08	2.23329	5.82	.43979
1.92	6.28489	3.12	2.13326	3.83	.41554
1.96	6.05359	3.16	2.03401	3.84	.39128
2.00	5.83651	3.20	1.93544	3.85	.36704
2.04	5.63180	3.24	1.83740	3.86	.34269
2.08	5.43821	3.28	1.73980	3.87	.51839
2.12	5.25432	3.32	1.64271	3.88	.29406
2.16	5.07920	3.36	1.54594	3.89	.26966
2.20	4.91177	3.40	1.44946	3.90	.24534
2.24	4.75145	3.42	1.40135	3.91	.22095
2.28	4.59737	3.44	1.35326	3.92	.19645
2.32	4.44916	3.46	1.30518	3.93	.17202
2.36	4.30597	3.48	1.25712	3.94	.14753
2.40	4.16748	3.50	1.20918	3.95	.12304
2.44	4.03316	3.52	1.16117	3.96	.098491
2.48	3.90272	3.54	1.11321	3.97	.073821
2.52	3.77577	3.56	1.06525	3.98	.049343
2.56	3.65200	3.58	1.01731	3.99	.024617
2.60	3.55117	3.60	.96936	4.00	.000000
2.64	3.41288	3.62	.92144		

ABLE 2

SUMMARY OF PROPERTIES OF STAINLESS-STREL-COLUMNS

[All specimens were supplied by Pleetwings, Inc., series A. B. C. D from roll No. 4460; E from roll No. 2346, heat No. 7189; F from roll No. 539, heat No. 4460; E from roll No. 7223; and O and H are type 322 "w"]

	-		Bardness	Ultimate	Yield	Hongation	Hardness (Rockwell		(1b/sq in.)		
			description	(1b/ed fn.)	(1b/sq In.)	(bercent)	number)	Tensile	Compressive	Pack	(1b-fn.)
-	Longi-	Longi- Not heat-treeted Pull hard	Pull hard	185,000 to	148,200 to	148,200 to 9.5 to 10.0	6-38	25.10 × 10 ⁶ 26.3 × 10 ⁶	W. C.	\$25.85 × 10 ⁶	740
m	Long1-	Longi- 400° F for 72 hr Pull hard tudinal					1	*26.12			1690
0	Trans-	Frans- Not heat-treated Pull hard		185,900.10	148,200 to	10.0	0-38	\$27.36			8
A	Trans-	Trans- 200° C for 72 hr Pull hard	Pull bard		-		.1	28.85		1	1520
	Longt-		1/2 bard	166,600		0.98	**	4 25.87	-		540
	Longi-		Annealed	. 63,200	-	0.88	9-68	26.73			8
	Prans-	Trans- 900° P for 1 hr	Pull bard				1	30.76	-29.0		1200
202	Longi-	Longi- 900° P for 1 hr	Pull, bard	1			1	29.16	-29.17		3

Afthese values of E were used to determine m and are the wilues used in the analysis of the test data.

S. WATER

ARALYSIS OF TEST DATA OSTATNED PROM SERIES A OF STAINLESS-STEEL COLUMN SPECIMENS

	5353030					
					Per (1b/sq in.)	12, 359 116, 123 116, 123 116, 123 116, 123 116, 133 116,
					(I/p) egr	1120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120
	(.nt-dr)	1126 552 548 548	AV6.=740		1/6	2883 2551.70 2651.70 265.70 265.90 26
	Port (15-in.)	290.41 516.94 358.39			√6	1.9716 1.9878 1.9878 1.9878 1.9828 1.9828 1.9828 1.9828 1.9828 1.9828 1.9828 1.9828 1.9828 1.9828
	Port (From fig. 2)	0.2590			(Pros fig. 2)	8. 8873 8. 7844 8. 7844 8. 784 8. 784 8. 710 8. 711 8. 711 8. 711 8. 710 8. 714 8. 744
m jo	***	3.8873 3.7644 3.7310		(I/0) .c.	Zor .	0.2580 .6586 .5686 .5686 .7057 .7050
Evaluation	(in.4)	0.71756 × 10 ⁻⁶ .72046 .71961		Braluation of (L/p)	Por (Ib)	1118.51 126.17 300.34 416.34 416.34 647.34 687.34 887.37 772.36 772.36 772.36 1111.30 1211.30
	(1b/eq in.)	25.86 × 10 ⁶ 26.86 25.86			(mg fin.)	0.009699 .009649 .009649 .009646 .009646 .009646 .009689 .009689 .009689 .009689 .009689
	tê.	118.61			(tn.)	0.00866 0.00867 0.00868 0.00868 0.00868 0.00868 0.00868 0.00868 0.00868 0.00868 0.00868 0.00868 0.00868 0.00868 0.00868
	(in.)	0.0890			t (in.)	0.0300 0.0300 0.0300 0.0300 0.0300 0.0300 0.0300 0.0300 0.0300 0.0300 0.0300 0.0300 0.0300 0.0300 0.0300
	(th.)	0.31998 .31998 .31978			(in.)	0.3800 5.199 6.199
	(in.)	2.4506 2.1832 1.9110			(fi.)	2.4506 2.1832 1.4779 1.1767 1.0168 1.0262 1.0272 1.

Fig. 1



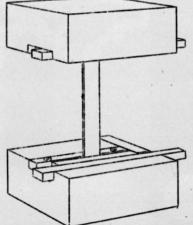
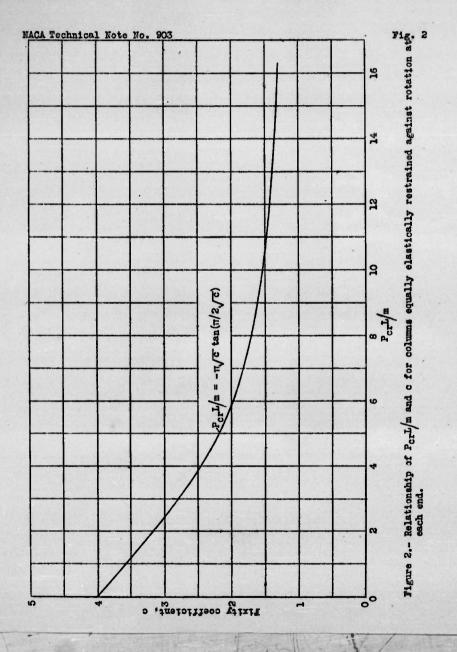


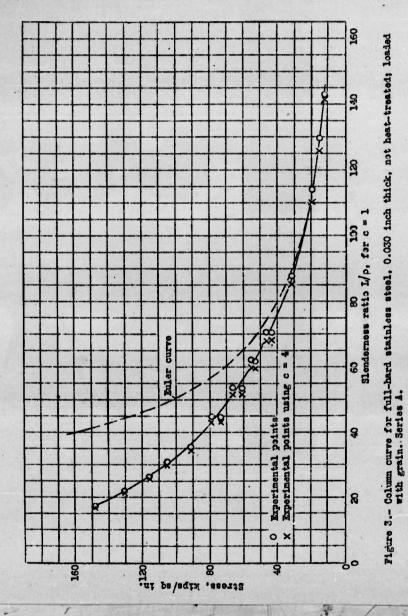
Figure 1 .- Column and end fixtures assembly.



18)

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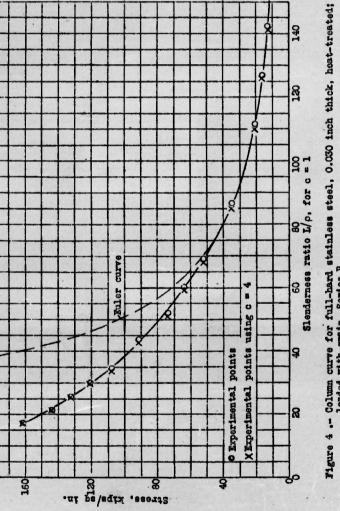


Figure 4 .- Column curve for full-bard stainless steel, 0.030 inch thick, hout-treated; loaded with grain. Series B.

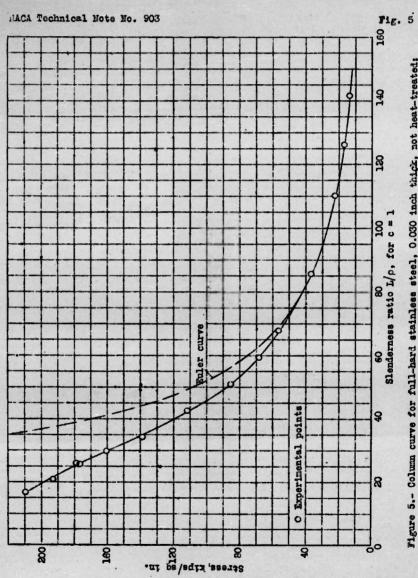


Figure 5.- Column curve for full-hard stainless steel, 0.030 inch thick, not heat-treated; loaded across grain. Series C.

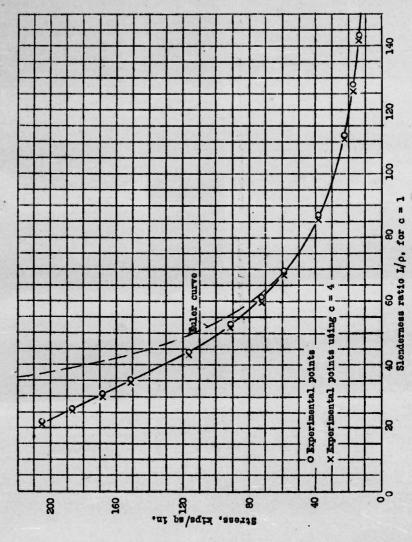


Figure 6.- Column curve for full-hard stainless steel, 0.030 inch thick, heat-treated; loaded across grain. Series D.

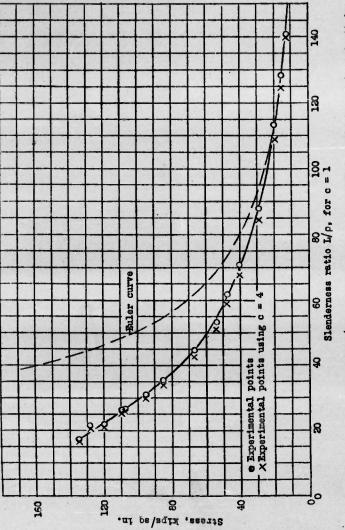
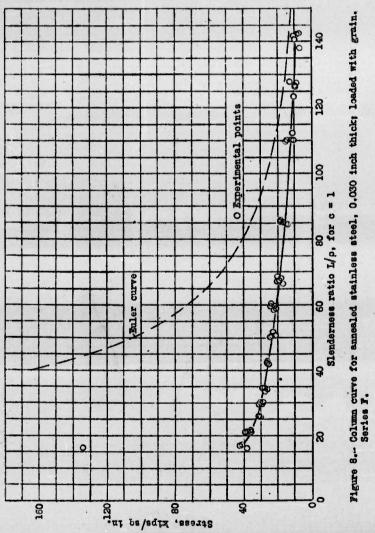


Figure 7.- Column curve for 1/2-hard stainless steel, 0.030 inch thick, not heat-treated; loaded with grain. Series E.





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Fig. 9

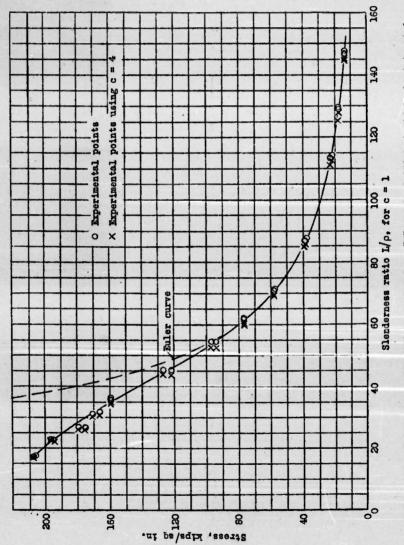
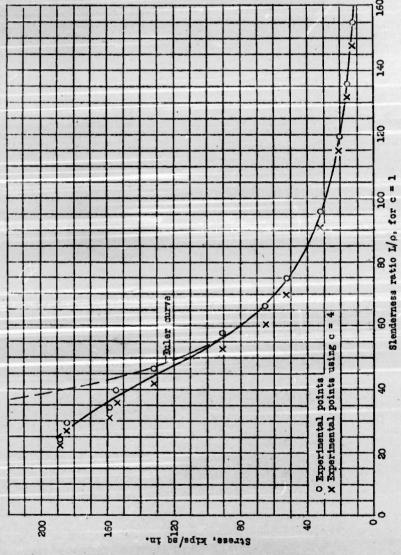


Figure 9.- Column curve for full-hard stainless "W" steel, 0.030 inch thick, heat-treated; loaded across grain. Series G.

Figure 10.- Column curve for full-bard stainless "W" steel, 0.030 inch thick, heat-treated; loaded with grain. Series H.



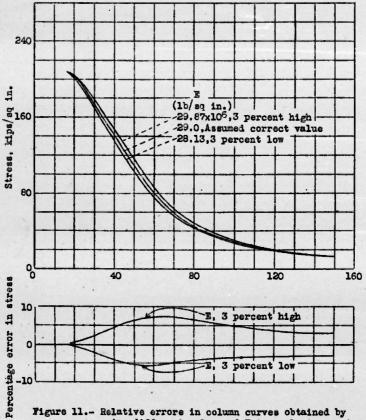


Figure 11.- Relative errore in column curves obtained by using different values of E in analyzing series G of the stainless-steel column teets.

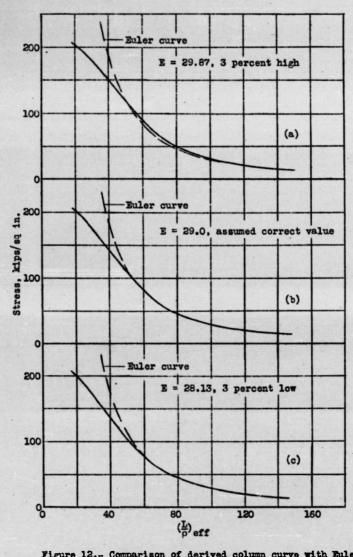


Figure 12.- Comparison of derived column curve with Euler curve for different values of E. Series G of the stainless-steel column tests.

Figs. 13,14

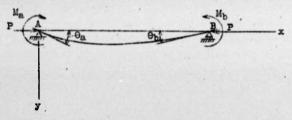
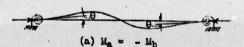


Figure 13.- Bending of a compressed bar with couples on the ends. (From reference 1.)



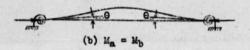
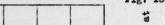
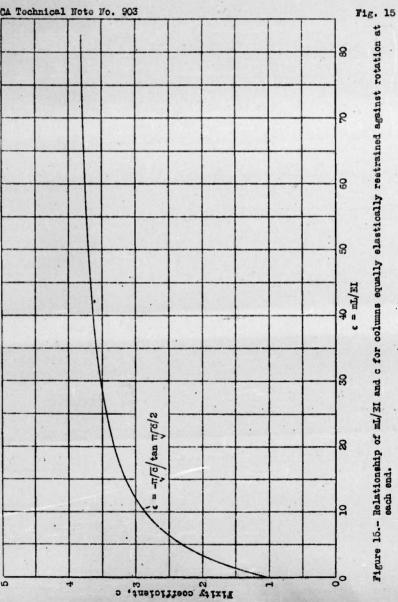


Figure 14.- Buckling configurations of a compressed bar with elastically restrained ends.







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